WEATHER OF THE MONTH.

WEATHER OF NORTH AMERICA AND ADJACENT OCEANS.

GENERAL PRESSURE CONDITIONS.

By H. C. FRANKENFIELD, Supervising Forecaster.

North Pacific Ocean.—At Midway Island pressure was well above the normal during the first two weeks of the month, and moderately high, as a rule, during the third week, while thereafter it averaged somewhat low. At Honolulu pressure was high during the first decade of the month, and generally below normal thereafter.

Alaska.—High pressure prevailed during the first five days of the month, and general low pressure thereafter, although during the last few days of the month pressure near the coast was substantially above the normal. Over the Aleutian Islands, however, a decade of quite low pressure was followed by a more marked opposite condition during the remainder of the month. Temperatures were variable within moderate limits during the first half of the month, but much below normal during the second half.

United States.—The month was characterized by a remarkable series of great disturbances that moved across the country. There were six of these in all, and a seventh was in progress at the close of the month. Abnormally low pressures prevailed in every instance, 28.56 inches in one, and all, except one, were attended by severe gales and rains. Destructive tornadoes also occurred during the eastward movement of the storm of March 26–30, and an extensive and marked high-pressure wave with low temperatures followed the storm of March 1–7, but there were no other HIGH of consequence. The temperature average was high except during the first few days of the month.

North Atlantic Ocean.—Stations of observation at Bermuda and Horta. Except on a few days, pressure was above normal, decidely so from about March 5 to 15, inclusive.

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN.

By F. G. TINGLEY.

The principal disturbance of the month on the North Pacific Ocean was that which prevailed at the end of the first and the beginning of the second decade over the western part of the ocean, affecting shipping on the northern steamer route between the 140th and 170th meridians, east longitude. Several vessels which were in the field of this depression reported barometric readings of 29 inches, or below. Fresh to strong gales were general over an extensive area and at intervals the wind reached the force of a whole gale. The highest winds were from the western quadrants.

East of the 170th meridian, east longitude, the weather was relatively quiet throughout the month except from about the 16th to the 24th when fresh to strong gales were encountered by a few ships in waters to the southward of the Alaskan Peninsula.

NORTH AMERICA.

By H. C. FRANKENFIELD, Supervising Forecaster.

The month of March, 1920, was indeed a remarkable one from a meteorological viewpoint. No less than seven disturbances of an abnormal character moved across the country, the dates of appearance and disappearance being as follows:

No. 1. March 1–7, inclusive.
No. 2. March 9–15, inclusive.
No. 3. March 13–17, inclusive.
No. 4. March 15–21, inclusive.
No. 5. March 24–27, inclusive.
No. 6. March 26–30, inclusive.
No. 7. March 29–April 3, inclusive.

There was much similarity in the development, movement and attendant phenomena of these storms, and the interval between them was so short that, with the exception of the first one, there was no succeeding HIGH of any considerable magnitude, and no unusually low temperatures. As a matter of fact, temperatures were above normal after the passage of the HIGH that succeeded the storm of March 1–7, but this early cold extended throughout the entire South, and on the morning of March 7 heavy frost occurred down to the southern limits of the mainland of Florida.

The storm of March 26–30 was attended by severe local storms and tornadoes on March 28, and these will be discussed in the April REVIEW.

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN.

By F. A. YOUNG.

The average pressure for the month was nearly normal at land stations on the coasts of Newfoundland, Canada, and the greater part of the United States, while it was slightly higher than usual at Key West and Bermuda. In the Azores the pressure was considerably above the normal and slightly below in northern European waters, causing a somewhat steeper gradient than usual between the two regions.

The number of days on which gales were observed was apparently not far from the normal over the greater part of the ocean, although in the 5-degree square immediately north of Bermuda they were recorded on 9 days, which is considerably more than usual.

According to reports received there was very little fog during the month, as it was not recorded on more than one day in any 5-degree square.

On March 1 there was a well-developed LOW central near the intersection of the 40th parallel and 65th meridian, while moderate to strong gales prevailed over a limited area west of the 60th meridian. This disturbance moved eastward with moderate speed, and on the 2d the center was near latitude 43°, longitude 55°, and southerly winds of gale force were still encountered in the easterly quadrants. During the next 24 hours the LOW moved but little, decreasing in intensity, although on the 3d a few reports were received denoting moderate northerly gales between the 50th and 60th meridians. The storm log from the French S. S. *Canada* is as follows:

Gale began on the 1st at 7:30 a. m. Lowest barometer reading 29.58 inches at 8 p. m. on the 2d; position 38° 45′ N., 58° 35′ W. End of gale on the 3d; highest force of wind, 11; shifts of wind near time of lowest barometer reading SE.–S.–SW.–WSW.–SSE.–WSW.–NNW.–N.

On the 5th Hatteras was near the center of a LOW, the barometer at that station reading 29.50 inches; only